

February 10, 1963

Professor R. Castaing
Service de Physique des Solides
Boite Postale No. 11
University of Paris
Faculté des Sciences
Group II - Orsay, France

Dear Professor Castaing:

Dr. Slodzian has no doubt kept you informed about the work he has been doing here - both its difficulties and potentialities.

The difficulties stem originally from the Bendix time-of-flight mass spectrometer, which we had had installed and ready for Slodzian's use. While it proves useful for much of our research, it proves to be unsuitable for use with the ion gun purchased from CAMECA. Either a new gun design or the construction of a single-focusing, conventional mass spectrometer was required. Dr. Slodzian, together with Dr. Sidney Liebes, has done an excellent job of analyzing the problem and implementing the latter choice. Unfortunately, it will necessarily take a little while to construct and test the instrument. Meanwhile, Slodzian has also benefitted from some lectures and other contact with work in molecular biology.

We have planned an interesting set of experiments studying the degradation products of macroscopic samples of representative organic molecules utilizing beams of positively and negatively charged ions.

We wonder if you would see any merit in the possibility of Dr. Slodzian's returning here after the trip to the Orient he is scheduled to make for the French Foreign Office. If you approved of this and encouraged him to return to Stanford until September, I would hope that it would not impose too much on his academic and research obligations to your laboratory. This return would permit him to obtain useful results from his efforts in designing an instrument. It would also be very helpful to us to have Dr. Slodzian's collaboration during that period. Dr. Liebes would continue to work closely with him and expects to continue here with research along these same lines.

I am most anxious to have your response as soon as possible. Your decision will affect the optimum timing of Slodzian's Far Eastern trip.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

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